

Variation in *Lysandra coridon* Poda (Lep.:
Lycaenidae), Summer 1975

By A. D. A. RUSSWURM*

The prolonged sunshine during the summer of 1975 gave excellent opportunities for Mr. H. G. M. Middleton and myself to examine *Lysandra coridon* Poda for variation. We visited a number of localities but concentrated mainly on the Portland area where the species appears in great profusion and is reminiscent of some of the famous breeding grounds of the past.

In spite of the extraordinary abundance of the species at Portland, the area has not to my knowledge produced anything outstanding in the way of variation except for the *fowleri* forms. All the more remarkable when this year there appeared a large number of named aberrations not previously recorded from the area. This indicates that the varietal strain of many different forms has always been present but has had to await certain conditions to bring them to the fore. If one looks around for an explanation, these aberrant forms might well have been produced by out-of-season temperatures. Early in June the weather was very cool and several degrees of ground frost occurred at the time when the species was pupating and this might well have been the cause.

Our first visit to the area was on 5th July to examine *Plebejus argus* Linn., when we took several varieties of this species including some *discreta* forms and one *radiata*. This visit is mentioned only to record that the males of *L. coridon* were out in some numbers giving indications of a very early season. We were fortunate in securing this information as by the end of the first week in August when the species should have been in its prime it was nearly over.

The plate shows a selection of the most outstanding aberrations but omits colour forms which included *viridescens*, *ultraviridescens* and a female *inaequalis* with a streak of blue male colouring across the right hand wing. All specimens were taken between 15th July and the end of the month, those shown on figs. 1, 4 and 8 were captured by Mr. Middleton the remainder were taken by the author. The aberrations are named according to Bright and Leeds.

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AUTOGRAPHIA BRACTEA D. & S. IN NORFOLK AND MYTHIMNA UNIPUNCTA HAW. IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND DORSET. — With reference to the records of these two species in the last issue of the *Entomologist's Record*, I took a single *A. bractea* at light at Dilham, Norfolk in August 1958; also, single specimens of *M. unipuncta* at light at Balsham, Cambridgeshire in September 1966 and at Portland at dusk in June 1938. — REV. GUY A. FORD, The Rookery, Farmhouse, Norton, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, 8.i.1976.